

Claims:

1. A printhead assembly comprising:
a printhead arranged to print on an image receiving means;
a platen;
a fixed support;
a first frame slideably connected to said fixed support, one of said printhead and said platen being mounted on said first frame; and
driving means for driving said first frame relative to said fixed support to cause the one of said printhead and platen to move in a linear direction toward the other.
2. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a compression means between the first frame and the printhead or platen respectively.
3. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a second frame, the other one of the printhead and platen being mounted on said second frame
4. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a compression means between the second frame and the platen or printhead respectively.
5. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 2 further comprising a third frame slideably connected to said fixed support wherein the compression means is connected between said first and third frames.
6. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 5 wherein the driving means drives said third frame together with said first frame, relative to said fixed support.
7. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 5 wherein, when the printhead is mounted on the first frame the driving means is arranged to drive the third

frame towards the first frame when said print head abuts the image receiving means, causing the compression means to be compressed.

8. A printhead assembly as claimed in claim 3 wherein when the printhead is mounted on the first frame driving the first frame relative to the fixed support causes the platen to move towards the second frame when the print head abuts said image receiving means.

9. A printhead assembly comprising:
a printhead arranged to print on an image receiving means;
a platen;
a fixed support;
a first frame slideably connected to said fixed support, one of said printhead and said platen being mounted on said first frame; and
driving means for driving said first frame relative to said fixed support in accordance with information stored with said image receiving means, to cause the one of said printhead and platen to move in a linear direction toward the other.

10. A printer comprising:
inputting means for inputting data
a printhead arranged to print on an image receiving means;
a platen;
a fixed support;
a first frame slideably connected to said fixed support, one of said printhead and platen being mounted on said first frame; and
driving means for driving said first frame relative to said fixed support to cause the one of said printhead to move in a linear direction toward the other.

11. A printer as claimed in claim 10 wherein the first frame is driven to a predetermined position relative to said fixed frame in accordance with said inputted data.

12. A method of controlling a printhead assembly comprising:
a printhead arranged to print on an image receiving means;

a platen;
a fixed support; and
a first frame slideably connected to said fixed support, one of said printhead and said platen being mounted on said first frame;
wherein said method comprises the steps of driving said first frame relative to said fixed support to a predetermined position.

13. A method of printing with a printer comprising:
inputting means for inputting data;
a printhead arranged to print on an image receiving means;
a platen;
a fixed support;
a first frame slideably connected to said fixed support, one of said printhead and platen being mounted on said first frame;
wherein said method comprises the steps of driving said first frame relative to said fixed support to a predetermined position; and
printing on said image receiving means in accordance with said inputted data.